



MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Los Angeles River Center & Gardens
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MEMORANDUM

TO: The Governing Board

FROM:  Joseph T. Edmiston, FAICP, Hon. ASLA, Executive Officer

DATE: April 14, 2010

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item V(e): Consideration of resolution authorizing amendment to contract with Bellfree Construction for construction services at the Duquesne Ave. access point associated with the Ballona Creek to Parks Connection Loop project.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution authorizing amendment to contract with Bellfree Construction for construction services at the Duquesne Ave. access point associated with the Ballona Creek to Parks Connection Loop project.

Background: The primary goal of the Ballona Creek to Parks Connection Loop Project (Project) is to connect the Baldwin Hills to Ballona Creek by connecting open spaces through trails and gateways. The intent of this project is to create multi-modal linkages and a regional trail between three existing park facilities (Ballona Creek Trail and Bike Path, Culver City Park and the Baldwin Hills Scenic Overlook).

On May 6, 2009 MRCA staff received approval from the Board to contract with Bellfree Contractors (Bellfree) to do work on improvements located on Culver City Park portion of this Project. These improvements are currently in construction and include installation of directional and interpretive signage and some minor trail work. Bellfree has extensive prior experience with trail projects similar to this Project

When MRCA staff originally contracted with Bellfree, the Ballona Creek Trail and Bike Path portion of this Project at the existing Duquesne Ave. access point was not ready to be implemented. MRCA now has the proper permits and is prepared to go into construction at this site. The improvements at Duquesne Ave. will significantly improve this existing, but deteriorated, public access point along the bike path. These improvements include installation of new decorative fence and gate, native plant landscaping, irrigation and a small interpretive display (to mimic the existing improved Centinela, Sepulveda, Inglewood and McConnell entrance projects). The project will convert under-utilized public space into safe and accessible parkland, will

encourage a higher volume of bicycle use and will provide important opportunities to interpret the natural systems of the Creek and the Watershed.

MRCA staff is requesting to add the Duquesne Ave. access point improvements to the scope of Bellfree's existing contract and increase the contract amount by \$43,000.

Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District Proposition A and Environmental Enhancement and Mitigation Program grant (EEM) are the funding sources for this project.